

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-7046



March 25, 1986

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 86-27

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY AUDITORS
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICERS

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TIME ELIGIBLE REFUGEES AND ENTRANTS
FROM 36 TO 31 MONTHS

REFERENCE: ACIN I-09-86

The Department has recently been notified by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that the 4.3 percent reduction for ORR's grants to states which includes funds available for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP and General Assistance (GA) programs, is effective March 1, 1986. Therefore, ORR will reimburse states participating in these programs for the first 31 months that a refugee/entrant is in the United States (U.S.), instead of the first 36 months. This policy decision does not affect funding for the Refugee Demonstration Project (RDP), aid codes 77 and 78 and the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program, aid codes 01 and 08.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the county welfare departments (CWDs) with instructions necessary to implement the 31-month reduction.

I. Program Instructions

Counties are not required to issue a Notice of Action on the 31-month reduction. Eligibility of current AFDC, Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP and County GA refugee/entrant recipients are not affected by this change. If otherwise eligible, these recipients would remain eligible regardless of the reduction in the Refugee Resettlement Program funding. Cash and medical assistance is to be provided to 31-month time expired refugee/entrant recipients under the normal sharing ratios for AFDC, Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP and County GA programs.

II. Fiscal Claiming Instructions

1. Administrative Time Reporting

Effective with the May 1986 time study period, time spent performing eligibility activities for refugees will be limited to the first 31 months of U.S. residency. Detailed time study instructions corresponding to each Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) time study category will be issued with the revised Eligibility and Nonservice Time Study (DFA 43). Accordingly, revised claiming instructions and Administrative Expense Claim forms will be issued for the April - June 1986 quarter.

2. Assistance Claiming Instructions - Effective with the March 1986 Claims

A. Time Eligible Refugees/Entrants on AFDC-Family Group/Unemployed (FG/U)

To ensure proper claiming, it will be necessary for counties to verify the date of entry for refugees and the date of parole for entrants on the time eligible payroll. Those cases in which at least one member in the Assistance Unit (AU) has not exceeded the 31-month time eligibility period as of March 1, 1986, will continue to be claimed on Form DFA 844. These cases must continue to be coded with aid code 30 for FG cases and aid code 35 for U cases. Those cases where the entire AU has time expired (31-months) should not appear on the time eligible payroll. These cases must appear on the regular AFDC payroll, and claimed under the normal sharing ratios for AFDC.

B. Time Eligible Refugees/Entrants on AFDC-Foster Care (FC)

Verification of the date of entry for refugee children and the date of parole for entrant children on the time eligible payroll, is also required for AFDC-FC. The federal refugee/entrant children (aid code 42) who are still time eligible will continue to be claimed on Form DFA 847. The time eligible nonfederal refugee/entrant children (aid code 40) will continue to be claimed on Form DFA 843. Once more, refugee/entrant children who have exceeded the 31-month time eligible period must not appear on the time eligible payroll.

C. Time Eligible Refugees/Entrants on County General Assistance (GA)

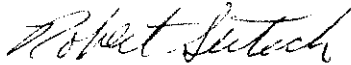
Reimbursement of GA costs is now limited to the 19th through 31st month a refugee/entrant is in the U.S. Counties should continue claiming 100 percent federal reimbursement of county GA funds paid to time-eligible refugees/entrants on Form DFA 859.

III. Statistical Reports

A number of statistical reporting systems will be affected by the new 31-month time eligibility limitation. An All County Letter is being developed which will explain how specific reports will be affected.

Counties should continue to identify those AFDC-FG/U, AFDC-FC and GA cases which have not exceeded the 36-month time eligibility period as of March 1, 1986. Since there are court decisions yet to be rendered and other factors, there is a possibility that ORR funds may be available at the end of the federal fiscal year to fund the full 36-month time period.

Questions concerning refugee program requirements should be directed to your Office of Refugee Services, County Welfare Operations Consultant at (916) 322-3141 or ATSS 492-3141. If you have any questions related to fiscal claiming aspects of this letter, please contact Karen Richardson (Administration) or Stephanie Davis (Assistance) at (916) 445-7046 or ATSS 485-7046.



ROBERT T. SERTICH
Deputy Director
Administration

cc: CWDA